

5-28-1964

# The Dial, Volume 1, Number 12, May 28, 1964

Milwaukee-Downer College

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## Recommended Citation

Milwaukee-Downer College, "The Dial, Volume 1, Number 12, May 28, 1964" (1964). *Milwaukee-Downer College Student Newspapers*. Paper 322.

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# THE DIAL

Volume 1. No. 12

Milwaukee-Downer College

May 28, 1964

## Thirteen Years of Progress

by Barbara Allen

In recognition and appreciation of his services to the College the DIAL staff dedicates this final issue to the President, John B. Johnson.

The history of Milwaukee-Downer College can be divided into three segments: the Miss Sabin era, the Miss Briggs era, and the Dr. Johnson era. Certainly the period that has seen the most change and activity on this campus has been that of the last 13 years.

Dr. John Bockover Johnson, Jr., came to Milwaukee-Downer College in 1951, with a freshness and vigor that was soon felt. He began to work immediately on raising the faculty pay scale. Soon a feasible plan was adopted, and the scale has risen every four or five years since that time. By June 1, 1953, the faculty had also legislated the tenure policy and the promotion scale policy, which had been instigated by AAUP. These programs, which had previously been understood (or misunderstood) were formally processed for the first time. Dr. Johnson appointed the Committee for the Recognition of Excellence that developed the plan for the proficiency system as it now exists. Previously there had been only one or two men on the faculty, but Dr. Johnson, feeling that a bi-lateral academic exposure was beneficial, began hiring qualified men in greater numbers. Probably the most outstanding change of these early years was the move to house the faculty off campus.

Dr. Johnson, however, has not confined himself to administrative activities alone. He has taught the introductory course in political science a number of times; the course he offered in Critical Thinking was so popular that it was forced to meet in Greene Hall!

Our president made physical as well as academic changes on the campus. An old lodge that was used as a bus waiting station was demolished, removing an eyesore from the campus. For



President John B. Johnson  
Milwaukee-Downer College 1951-1964

years the graduation pictures of all the classes hung in Merrill Hall along both sides of the main corridor. Statues of Socrates and Aeschines, larger than life size, greeted the visitor from either side of the auditorium as he entered at the main door. (They were affectionately dubbed "Mr. and Mrs. Downer" by the



Confab Over Coffee

students.) They and the pictures disappeared mysteriously soon after Dr. Johnson arrived. The lighting was modernized, the class pictures removed, and lo, Merrill Hall was transformed!

During Dr. Johnson's years as head of the College, both faculty and students have been given more individual responsibility. The Division Heads on the faculty have been given roles of more consequence. The Faculty Statement of Academic Freedom and Responsibility is certainly an attester to faculty participation in the college community and in the city.

Dr. Johnson disliked the idea of compulsory worship, so the chapel services became voluntary. Student Government Association has also been transformed since he came. It is now empowered to do things that were previously under the control of the administration. The Student Statement of Academic Freedom and Responsibility is a landmark for the College. Dormitory regulations have become more liberal as students have been given opportunity for self-government and self-censorship.

One of the favorite jokes of his associates concerns Dr. Johnson's unwillingness to decorate his office more luxuriously! Perhaps this stems from his conscientiousness about budgets.

Even the most astute administrator deserves time away from budgets and reports, and Dr. Johnson used to take his playing tennis with students and faculty. He has never been defeated by a student; and he has played champions!

Dr. Johnson was one of the first to envision MDC as a national college instead of a local or regional one. He has worked closely with the Admissions Department in its program to broaden the geographical area from which Downerites come. His efforts have also stimulated the alumnae into becoming the vital, nationally active group that they are today.

Dr. Johnson has contributed much to Milwaukee-Downer College and its students. He has perceived clearly the role of the small college in a society of bigness. He has worked untiringly toward the goals of truly liberal education. The benefits of Dr. Johnson's influence will endure.

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**MARINE PLAZA, MAIN FLOOR, DOWNTOWN, MILWAUKEE**



## The Road Not Taken

by Jackie Anderson

While some, 21 to be exact, of our loyal faculty will keep the flame of knowledge brightly burning in Appleton next year, many are scattering in separate paths for various great achievements.

From the English department, Mr. Santas is accepting a position teaching Greek at the University of Chicago. Not interested merely in teaching, though, the ambitious Mr. Santas will also continue work on a current project, one of the plays of Euripedes, for which he finds the research facilities of Chicago quite desirable.

Mr. Blume also seems to be heading in a profitable direction, his particular goal being a Ph.D from Duke University which he will enter in June or September of this year.

From the ranks of the scientists, Mr. Wilcox will be transferring to the Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire to teach general chemistry during the year and microbiology during the summer.

Mrs. Jones has no definite plans at present but would like to continue working part-time.

Baltimore is Dr. Christy's destination where he will work for the Social Security Administration in the eminent position of Research Psychologist in the field of Personnel Measurement and Evaluation.

Mrs. Doherty also has indefinite plans, and with an emphatic "After 15 years I can retire!" to this reporter, said that she plans to relax (?) until her youngest child begins school, at which time she would like to go back to teaching.

Dr. Peck, although he would very much like to take a two-year trip around the world and live in the lap of luxury the rest of his life, feels that

a lack of a certain green essential obligates him to accept an Associate Professorship of Sociology at Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He will conduct a graduate seminar in industrial sociology and participate in research dealing with the social and psychological consequences of technological unemployment. He might even start a women's football team!

Such are the plans of our illustrious and talented faculty. They carry all of our best wishes for their success!

## Banks, Bets, and Bunnies

by Joan Phillips

Only the absinthe was absent from the Toulouse-Lautrecian atmosphere at Downer Friday night as the renowned Bent Elbow opened its swinging doors for fun and business. What would Ellen Sabin think if she had known that future generations of students in her elite school for the education and formation of young ladies sponsored this night of abandon to the gaming tables, to the bar, and to the pleasures of the Downer delicacies decked out in costumes appropriate to the decor? Certainly the emphasis here was on formations, but one wonders what her reaction would be to the education. It would be quite gratifying to the faculty to see the intellectual curiosity exhibited in the gambling activities transferred to the classroom. Truly the joys of learning are manifold.

The fun of roulette, craps, and blackjack was topped only by the interest in the entertainment, which was just as great a gamble. The playboy touch

was added to Greene's new night club as Bunny Sandy, Bunny Lee, and Bunny Bunny hopped up the party; the torch burned as Franklin McCormick has never made it when Connie sang; and the heat really came on as Gypsy Rose Dodds certainly was allowed to entertain us. Everything taken into account, Downer's last mixer was a grand **grande finale** whose games and girls truly brought down the house.

## Destiny of the Hat

by Lilly Dache'

After much discussion of alternatives, it was decided by the Hat Committee that the "wearing" hat and the "hunting" hat will wend their way up to Lawrence next year, going the way of similar cherished possessions that are uniquely Downer's. In addition to the two hats, other vestiges of the traditional Hat Hunt will be included: the four original Hat Girl pins that have been passed down, as well as the original Razzing Chairman pin; a hat chain; a trowel; a pair of gloves; and the Hat Banner.

A ceremony was held in the horseshoe on May 20. The four classes, clad in their blazers, sang their class songs as the ribbons of each class were placed on both hats. It was announced that Miss Irvin will keep the hats for the summer. Next fall, with the Hat Girls at Lawrence, she will take charge of arranging for a display of the Hat Hunt articles. There is a possibility that the traditional articles will be

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## Libraria in Liberia

Whatever will happen to all those books that don't go to Lawrence? This is probably the question that Mrs. Blakey has heard twice daily since October. A final decision has now been reached as to the fate of over 45,000 volumes from Chapman Library which are duplicated at Lawrence.

The Associated Colleges of the Mid-West, consisting of Beloit, Coe, Grinnell, Lawrence, Ripon, Carleton, Cornell, Knox, Monmouth and St. Olaf, have purchased these volumes through a grant from the Ford Foundation. The books will go to the library of Cuttington College in Liberia, a college now possessing only 8,000 volumes. The total number of books coming from Downer will exceed the present total in all Liberian college libraries! UWM also bid for the collection, but it was overwhelmingly topped by the ACMW offer.

Mrs. Blakey stated that since most of our reference collection was duplicated in the Lawrence holdings, Cuttington College would receive an excellent foundation on which to build.

## Late Releases

From the golf ball presentation to the chandelier-clad faculty, in the evening performance, J.B.J. Day was full of surprises. The Day (May 27)th, dedicated to Dr. and Mrs. John B. Jonnson, was a tribute to the contributions of both Johnsons to the college and the community. Though Dr. Johnson probably anticipated the day with some trepidation, the previous doubt seemed to add to the actual festivities. As an ingenious tribute to a deserving man, J.B.J. Day certainly was a success!

\* \* \*

If you did not pass Hawthorneden between 8 and 11 a.m. Monday, you missed the "Angel." One of the religion classes, impressed by the Biblical account of Balaam's ass and his vision of an angel in the road, reproduced the event M-D.C. style with the equivalent of Balaam's animal borrowed from a Milwaukee riding stable.

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## Follies Tradition Renewed

An old tradition will be renewed at Downer's commencement activities this year as previous Downer graduates present Alumnae Follies. The show, to be held in the MDC auditorium on June 7 at 8:00 p.m., will depict the Downer Girl image as it progressed (?) through Downer history. Carolyn King Stephens, class of '62, is directing the Follies, which will incorporate singing, dancing and humor. Don't miss it!

## The Dowager

by Linda Fialla

What better prelude to exams than the distribution of the **Dowager**? It has come at a time when many prefer to remember Downer for what it has been rather than for what it will be for the next two weeks. The **Dowager** editors and staff have succeeded in providing the students and alumnae with a publication which transcends the norm of creativity witnessed here and far surpasses the "mundaneity" of a conventional yearbook.

The pictures which comprise the **Dowager** are excellent not only insofar as they have captured the familiar but also in that they are significantly arranged and poetically captioned. The academic freedom statement which prefaces the book is a worthy verbal reminder of all that the college has stood for, and Mr. Briggs' statement at the end is an eloquent reiteration. The photographs of past presidents give the **Dowager** a universal quality which will find approval in the eyes of the alumnae as well as the present student body.

Because it has captured and immortalized so much of this college, the **Dowager** is more than a fitting eulogy; it is a creative and imaginative work which will keep Downer College alive in the hearts of all those who have spent a part of their lives within its walls.

## Destiny

(Continued from Page 3)

among other Downer possessions in an Alumnae Suite, which will be furnished with Alumnae Hall furniture. Whatever the final arrangements are, there has been assurance that the articles will be displayed.

## S.O.S.!

by Marilyn Anker

Regatta? Who knows! At the rate the **Katie** and **Althea** are holding true to a woman's temperament, the sixty-second Regatta may get under way at 2:00 p.m. on May 30 and halt in the middle of the river half way through the race. But we have hopes and are planning on a crew team from each class so that the annual interclass competition will take place. And let us not forget the faculty, who seem to be out in full force this year.

Regatta has been a tradition at Downer since 1902. This year the classes have operated under a handicap in that the six oar shells have come to the point of holding more water than the river, which, incidentally, is an indescribable tarn of mud and odious smells. With only two eight-oar shells, the classes for the last month have been accustoming themselves to the **Katie** or the **Althea**, depending on which one is in the repair shop. Recently the **Althea** suffered from a large hole which was effectively created while the shell was being docked. However, we have promises for her good health before the thirtieth.

Following the success of either the green, red, purple (who broke the speed record last year with 2:19, or the yellow class, and the selection of the class team to be presented with the oar for form, the annual picnic in Hawthorn Den will be held. All are invited. So, here's wishing luck to the best team, and hope that it doesn't sink!

WE, THE DIAL STAFF OF DOWNER COLLEGE WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY IN THIS LAST ISSUE TO THANK ALL OF OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THE SUPPORT THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THANK YOU FOR ENABLING US TO TURN OUT A SUCCESSFUL PAPER.